

Built in 1891, the Red Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is in its original condition. The 78-foot long bridge is representative of a lenticular pony truss and includes tapered floor beams. The bridge (restored by the Meriden Lions Club), named because one of its wooden predecessors was painted red, was obtained by the Town of Meriden in 1891 as part of a multiple-bridge purchase from the Berlin Iron Bridge Company. The bridge is now closed to traffic, its function taken over by a modern bridge just to the east.

Photo from the City of Meriden



The Quinnipiac Gorge is an area deeply integrated with the region's industrial history. The area was once home to the Waterbury-Cromwell railway: a short-lived railway that transported goods to and from Meriden. Historically, water power was used to power industry along the river including the Meriden Gorge Carpenter's Dam, which powered a civil war button factory. In the mid-river, large dams were used to power industry, forming impounded lakes like Meriden's Hanover Pond and Wallingford's Community Lake. Near Hanover Pond, "Red Bridge" connected Oregon Road with the route to Cheshire and provided access to the very

recreation at the Pond. The Gorge area of the Quinnipiac River in Meriden is making a strong recovery from its industrial legacy and wildlife and river restoration efforts are ongoing. The nature trail begins near the Red Bridge and follows the former rail bed westward along the Gorge.

Siltstone sediments make up the walls of the Meriden Quinnipiac Gorge, which are a part of the fossil-bearing Newark Terrace made famous by the dinosaur prints found in Rocky Hill.

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QUINNIPIAC RIVER GORGE

Meriden, CT

Directions and Parking:

The Quinnipiac River Gorge trail can be accessed directly off of River Road (State Route 70).

Parking areas are available off Oregon Road near Hanover Pond where the trail head begins.

Permitted Activities:

Hiking and canoeing is permitted. This part of the Quinnipiac Gorge is stocked with fish. Fishing is allowed by State license.

For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Meriden
Recreation Program Supervisor
(203) 630-4259

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